/363 cont./

234 262 To end up, one could still cite among Chiriguano food the cheese they make in some villages. Each time they butcher they take care to keep the abomasus in order to make [179] milk separate. Chiriguano cheeses are of the same quality as those of the half-breeds, who for once have taught something [272] to our Indians. I shall add that I have never seen a Chiriguano drink milk.

312 133 The problem of water does not come up for the Chiriguano as for the other Indians of the Chaco. Numerous rivers cross their territory, and several of them are large enough not to dry up even in the middle of the dry season. These watercourses form innumerable quebradas, gorges or valleys, which give its characteristic aspect to the country inhabited by our Indians. [361] Sometimes villages are built near springs or small lakes, like the Ivu mission, which is provided with plenty of water.

312 When I crossed the Caipipendí valley, the river which occupies the bottom was nearly dry. The Indians had scooped out small wells about one meter in depth in the sand of its bed. They had surrounded them with slabs of stone to prevent any caving in and to preserve the water which accumulated in them from the heat of the sun. In this same valley, in a village situated on top of a hill, the Indians had dug a cistern four to five meters in diameter in which rain water had collected.

271 312 824 The Chiriguano have found a way to purify the muddy water they often have to drink. They crush caraguatá leaves between two stones, then steep them in the water, and all its impurities settle as a result of the action of the juice of this plant.

264 The Chiriguano do not eat at set times. They make a rather substantial breakfast very early in the morning and again take some food toward the middle of the day. In the evening [562] about six o'clock they make a kind of dinner. Since the men are served first, then the women and children, it follows that the meals drag out in length. At any moment of the day one [415] can see someone eating. The food /364/ is presented to each one in a calabash or terra-cotta bowl which each holds on his knees. They pick up the pieces with their fingers but imbibe liquids with a wooden spoon (Figs. 42 and 43). After eating, they wash their hands. I have seen some rinse out their mouths.